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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, we take refuge in You. Thank You for guiding us through life's trials and for giving us songs in the night. Strengthen the Members of this body for their important work. Guide them to make decisions that will accomplish Your purposes in our world. Give them an abiding sense of Your presence and an awareness that they are never alone. By Your grace, lead them through the seasons of their labors, through tough times as well as tranquil periods.

Give all of us the discernment to see what You are doing in our day and the willingness to be part of what You are making happen for humanity's good. Deliver us from missing opportunities to serve You because we are preoccupied with life's trivia. Lead us from darkness to light and from chaos to calm.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this week, we are beginning with the House message on the Taxpayer Relief Act. This bill passed the Senate on February 2 by a vote of 66 to 31. The House has appointed conferees, and we are now taking up that message to appoint Senate conferees. There will be motions to instruct the conferees that will be offered by the other side. They have provided us with a list, and we hope they will not all be offered. We will be discussing

that shortly after the opening this morning.

In any event, we will begin the process of appointing conferees with votes on the motions to instruct. As I announced on Friday, we will debate the motions today and stack the votes to begin around 8 o'clock this evening. Therefore, we do expect votes to begin at that time. We may decide to have some of the votes on Tuesday morning, depending on how many of these motions to instruct the other side offers, but we will make that determination after we discuss what will be offered, and hopefully, during the course of the afternoon, I am sure that will settle out. I will reiterate that we will be in session into the evening with those votes.

This is the last week of legislative business before the Presidents' Day recess. We will first appoint conferees on the tax bill, and we will return to the asbestos bill after we address the tax bill over the course of today and likely into the early morning tomorrow.

We have a point of order pending to the asbestos bill, and Senators will desire some further debate before we vote on that waiver motion. We will be conferring with Senators on both sides to determine the best time for that vote.

Finally, I also mention that we need to address the PATRIOT Act before we leave. We will complete the PATRIOT Act before we leave. It is a bill that addresses concerns on both sides of the aisle, and we will proceed to that bill before finishing the week. Senators should not plan to depart early this week. As my colleagues can tell, we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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